

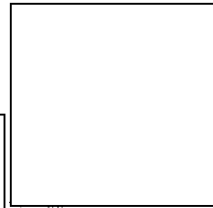
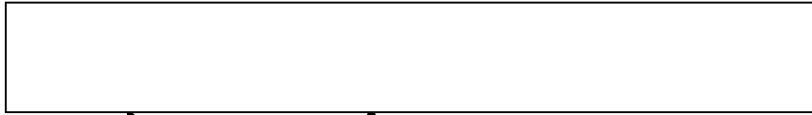
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Director of Central Intelligence

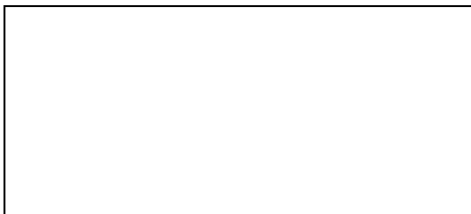
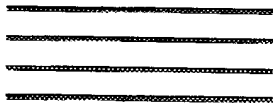
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Table of Contents

Situation Report

		1
--	--	---

Development

		3
--	--	---

Current Notes

<i>Africa</i>		4
		5
		6
<i>East Asia</i>		7
		8
		9
<i>Americas</i>		10
	Peru: Some Delay Possible in MiG-29 Delivery	11
<i>Near East</i>		12
		12
		13
<i>Special Analysis</i>		
		14

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21 August 1996

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AMERICAS (continued)

Peru:

Some Delay Possible in MiG-29 Delivery

Foreign Minister Tudela last week assured a senior official that new advanced fighter aircraft would not arrive in the next few months. He added, however, that he could not guarantee that delivery would be postponed until next spring. *Peru appears to be committed to buying the fighters—probably MiG-29s.*

— A few days earlier, President Fujimori and Tudela had claimed that no decision had been made on acquiring MiG-29s, adding that other aircraft were under consideration.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mamedov has denied that his government is discussing the sale of MiG-29s to Peru, although powerful defense industries in Russia are widely known to be pursuing foreign arms sales.

Peru may have inquired about buying MiG-29s from Belarus and Ukraine. *To ensure ready access to parts and maintenance, however, Lima probably would prefer to buy the aircraft from Russia, where they are built.*

Lima may have decided to delay receipt of the aircraft to avoid jeopardizing progress on resolution of the border dispute with Ecuador, which would react strongly to their arrival in Peru.

— *New Ecuadorian President Bucaram has an uneasy relationship with his military, and he probably would feel pressure to respond with unscheduled arms purchases.*

Elsewhere in the region, Argentina shows the most concern. *Buenos Aires does not want other South American countries to acquire advanced weapons that it cannot afford at this time. Chilean plans to buy new fighters by 1998 could be accelerated by Peruvian acquisition of advanced fighters.*

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